

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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AIR

FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 121, August 3, 2 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 121; REPEATED INFORMATION CINCPAC UNNUMBERED.

Department's 81.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Shen informed of US Intelligence estimate that there is no evidence suggesting Chinese Communist intention to take offensive action in Taiwan Straits area. Shen did not directly disagree with estimate, but expressed personal opinion "it is dangerous to make guesses concerning Communist behavior and safer to adjust state of readiness to Communist capabilities. He remarked that Communists have done foolish things before and that Khrushchev appears to calculate his actions less carefully than did Stalin.

Shen was also told US Government assumes that Chinese Government will continue to honor its commitments under exchange of notes of December 10, 1954. Point explicitly made that emergency right of self-defense would not include attack on coastal airfields. Shen tacitly accepted this point and later in conversation observed that, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Foreign Ministry understands that Chinese action to precipitate major hostilities would be most undesirable from both Chinese and American points of view.

Shen was pleased to learn of favorable response to request of Minister of National Defense that USAF F-100s fly in and out of fields on Taiwan, although he had apparently not previously heard of request. He observed that promptness of US response would have excellent effect on Chinese military. Shen readily saw need for avoiding special publicizing of flights and said

he would

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-2 121, August 3, 2 p.m. from Taipei.

he would take matter up with military spokesmen and with organization in MND which disseminates military news.

Admiral Smoot has informed Embassy that he has appointment with Minister of National Defense tomorrow morning and will raise substance of referenced telegram with Minister at that time.

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